

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
TOGETHER WITH THE
RESOLUTIONS
NOW IN FORCE,
AND
RULES
FOR THE CONDUCTION OF TRIALS.

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Printed By Order of the Grand Lodge.  
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RALEIGH, N. C.

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1856.

BRO. W. T. BAIN, Grand Secretary :

I herewith transmit you for publication, the Digest of the "Resolutions and Regulations of the Grand Lodge now in force, together with its Constitution and By-Laws," as reported by the Committee appointed for that purpose. The labor imposed on the Committee, was much more onerous than was anticipated, and has consequently rendered the delay in making their report unavoidable. I have given it a careful supervision and believe it to be as correct in all particulars, as it is possible at present, to render it, and much hope, the valuable Masonic law it contains, will amply compensate subordinate Lodges, for the delay in receiving it.

Fraternally,

P. A. HOLT. G. M.

The following Resolutions were adopted by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, at its Annual Communication held December 3d, 1855.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a *Digest* of the Resolutions of the Grand Lodge now in force; and that the Grand Secretary be instructed to have the same, together with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, and the *Rules* to be observed in the conduction of trials, printed in pamphlet form, and distributed among the subordinate Lodges of the State.

It is further Resolved, That this Committee be required to report to the Most Worshipful Grand Master at an early period after the close of this Grand Communication, who shall carefully supervise and forward the same to the Grand Secretary for publication and distribution."

The Grand Master appointed W. K. Blake, E. Smith and Peter Adams, a Committee to carry out the provisions of the above Resolutions.

In explanation of the delay in the appearance of the following compilation, the undersigned would state, that numerous and indispensable engagements have prevented an earlier attention to the duty assigned him by the Grand Lodge. In view of the destitution of the Subordinate Lodges of copies of the Constitution and By-Laws, he regrets the delay which has unavoidably occurred. The earliest and most careful attention, however, has been given to the preparation of the *Digest*, that was consistent with prior obligations.

WILL. K. BLAKE, Chairman.

Greensboro', N. C., May 1st, 1856.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT YORK MASONS
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ARTICLE I.

SEC. 1. The Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior, and Grand Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Deacons, and the Masters and Wardens, for the time being, of the several Lodges, within this State, or Representative or Representatives, specially appointed for that purpose, who shall be considered as their proxy, or proxies, and the Past Grand officers of the Grand Lodge—that is to say, Past Grand Masters, Past Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurers and Grand Secretaries—and the said enumerated officers and persons shall be the only members and voters of the Grand Lodge. The Master and Wardens of every Lodge are the Representatives thereof in the Grand Lodge, or their proxy or proxies, or the Representative or Representatives constituted as aforesaid.

SEC. 2. In all cases where special Representatives shall not be appointed by any Subordinate Lodge, and the Master and Wardens of any Lodge cannot, personally, attend the Grand Lodge, they shall have the privilege of constituting a proxy; and such proxy shall be a Master Mason, and a member of some Lodge under this jurisdiction; and he or they shall be entitled to the same number of votes as his or their constituent or constituents.

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. A Grand Master shall be annually chosen, to wit— at the annual Communication ; and no person shall fill the office more than three years successively, unless by a unanimous vote.

SEC. 2. In the election of Grand Master, a ballot at large shall be taken, (every voter writing the name of the candidate he thinks best qualified) and the brother who has two-thirds of the votes present, shall be declared Grand Master elect, and installed in due form, according to ancient usage.

SEC. 3. In cases of sickness, or necessary absence, the Grand Master, or any other Grand officer may be installed by proxy ; but whoever represents them must have sustained the office to which such absent officer is to be installed, or such office as might have entitled him to fill the chair in the absence of the Grand Master.

SEC. 4. The Grand Master shall appoint and commission his Deputy and the Grand Lecturers, under the seal of the Grand Lodge ; and he shall appoint and declare the Grand Chaplains, Grand Deacons, the Grand Steward, the Grand Marshall, the Grand Pursuivant, Grand Tyler, and Grand Sword Bearer : which appointments shall be entered on the Minutes of the Grand Lodge ; and, in case any other office shall become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Grand Master, for the time, shall fill such vacancy by his nomination.

SEC. 5. The Grand Master shall, when present, indispensably fill the chair—in his absence the Deputy Grand Master—in the absence of both, the Senior Grand Warden—in the absence of these, the Junior Grand Warden—and in the case of the absence of all these officers, the eldest Grand officer in the Lodge is to fill the chair. And, that the Grand Lodge may always appear in due form, the presiding officer shall wear the Jewel of the Grand Master, and all others the Jewels of the offices they respectively represent.

SEC. 6. No Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Warden shall, during his continuance in office, be Master or Warden to, or Representative of, a particular Lodge ; and no brother shall be eligible to either of the said offices, who is not a Past Master.

SEC. 7. The Grand Master enjoys all the powers and prerogatives conferred by the ancient Constitutions and usages of the Craft. He has power absolutely to prohibit the introduction of any matter conflicting with the spirit of Masonry, or with Grand Lodge regulations; and his decision on all questions shall be final, unless reversed by a vote of two thirds of the members present. He may convene any Lodge within his jurisdiction, preside therein (with his officers or otherwise,) inspect their proceedings, and correct all irregularities, or he may appoint a suitable Brother for that purpose. For any dereliction of duty, or other un-Masonic conduct, he may suspend a Brother, whatever may be his grade, or arrest the Charter of a Lodge, until the ensuing session of the Grand Lodge, before which he shall present all the circumstances connected with the case. He may, also, grant dispensations on all proper occasions, and do all such other acts and deeds as are warranted or required of him by the regulations and ancient usages of the Fraternity.

SEC. 8. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens, shall, severally, at the time of their installation, make the following declaration:—"I solemnly promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that in the office of———, I will, according to the best of my abilities, strictly comply with the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge, and other ancient Masonic usages."

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. The Grand Wardens shall be chosen annually, by a majority of written votes, and must be Past Masters.

ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. The Grand Treasurer shall be chosen annually, by a majority of written votes.

SEC. 2. He must be a brother of good worldly substance, and to him shall be committed the monies belonging to the Grand Lodge. He shall always keep a fair record of his accounts and transactions, and the uses to which the monies are appropriated; and shall lay the same, when required, before the Grand Lodge, and account for the monies, as may be directed.

ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The Grand Secretary shall be chosen annually, by a majority of written votes.

SEC. 2. He must be a brother who can write a fair and legible hand, and shall keep accurate records of all the transactions of the Grand Lodge. He shall present all the votes and orders of the Grand Lodge, after they are entered, to the Grand Master for his approbation and signature. He shall issue summonses, as the Grand Master may direct; and shall give a seasonable notice in at least one public newspaper of every stated meeting of the Grand Lodge; and he shall be rewarded for his services in such manner as the Grand Lodge may direct.

ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1. None but Master Masons, members of regular Lodges, shall be members of the Grand Lodge, or be eligible to any office or appointment therein.

SEC. 2. The Grand Lecturers shall qualify themselves for their duties, and attend the meetings of the Grand Lodge, and exemplify the work and lectures of the several degrees, when required. They shall visit the several Lodges when required—lecture and instruct them in work, and see that they are properly regulated and conducted. For their services they shall be suitably compensated, in such manner as the Grand Lodge may provide.

SEC. 3. The Grand Marshal shall attend to the organization of the Grand Lodge, collect petitions and communications, introduce visitors, direct the formation of processions, and execute commands of the Grand Master.

SEC. 4. The Grand Sword-bearer and Pursuivant shall act as assistants to the Grand Marshal.

SEC. 5. The Grand Deacons shall occupy their proper stations, and each attend to his particular duty.

SEC. 6. The Grand Chaplains, when called upon, are to perform all suitable clerical duties.

SEC. 7. The Grand Steward and Tyler shall attend every call of the Grand Master, and be present at every Grand Com-

munication; for which services a suitable compensation shall be made. He shall attend yearly, in season, to having the Grand Lodge room properly prepared for the reception of the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE VII.

SEC. 1. A Grand Lodge shall be held at least once in every year, and the Grand Master may call special meetings, whenever he shall deem it advisable.

SEC. 2. In the adoption of this Constitution, and all amendments hereafter made, and in the election of officers, the votes shall be taken according to the rights of the several Lodges, and the members of the Grand Lodge—that is to say, every Lodge present by its Representatives—shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more brethren; and every member of the Grand Lodge otherwise entitled than by being a representative of a particular Lodge, shall have one vote; all matters in the Grand Lodge not otherwise provided for, shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, and the brother in the chair shall have the casting vote.

SEC. 3. The Grand Lodge shall have power by charter, under their seal, in form heretofore used, to constitute new Lodges, to establish an uniform mode of working in all the Lodges in this State, and superintend and regulate the general police of Masonry, according to the ancient usages and customs of Masons, —carefully regarding the old land-marks, which are, on no account, to be removed or defaced.

SEC. 4. The Grand Lodge shall be the supreme Masonic authority within the State of North Carolina, and shall claim and exercise all the original essential powers, privileges, rights and authority appertaining to the ancient craft; and shall, moreover, rank on an equality with all other regularly constituted Grand Lodges; and be empowered to legislate upon all matters of Masonic government; and make all necessary regulations for its own government and that of its subordinates.

ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 1. No new charter shall be granted, but upon the peti-

tion of at least seven known and approved Master Masons; nor shall a new warrant issue to any number of Masons, residing within less than ten miles of the usual place of meeting of any regularly established Lodge, unless important benefits are to be derived therefrom; and the petition shall contain the causes which render it expedient that such a charter should be granted, with the nomination of the Master and Wardens; and the petition shall be approved by some regular constituted Lodge in the vicinity of the petitioners.

ARTICLE IX.

SEC. 1. No amendment to this Constitution shall be adopted by the Grand Lodge, until the same, after being proposed in writing to the Grand Lodge, and thereby concurred with, shall be submitted to the consideration of all the individual Lodges, and adopted by at least two-thirds of all the said Lodges.

BY-LAWS
OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT YORK MASONS,
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

SEC. 1. The annual meetings of the Grand Lodge shall be held in the city of Raleigh on the first Monday of December in each and every year.

SEC. 2. The Representatives of three Subordinate Lodges, with such Grand Officers and members as may be in attendance, shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SEC. 3. The Grand Lodge shall continue in session until all legitimate business coming before it, shall have been disposed of, or until closed by the Grand Master.

SEC. 4. Immediately on the organization of the Grand Lodge, the presiding Officer shall appoint a Committee of three, to whom shall be referred the credentials of all claiming a seat; and upon a satisfactory Report, and as soon as he may deem it advisable, the Grand Master shall proceed to the appointment of the following standing Committees, each to consist of a discretionary number of members, to wit:

1st. *A Committee on Charters and Dispensations*; to whom shall be referred all matters appertaining to the constituting or Chartering of Lodges.

2nd. *A Committee on Foreign Communications and Miscellaneous subjects*; to whom shall be referred all foreign communications, and such miscellaneous matters, as may not otherwise be specially disposed of.

3rd. *A Committee on Work, Proceedings and Returns of Sub-*

ordinate Lodges; to whom shall be referred the By-Laws, Returns and Proceedings of the several Lodges, together with every other matter relating in any way to said Lodges, and which may not meet with any other disposition.

4th. *A Committee on Accounts and Claims*; whose duty it shall be to examine the Grand Treasurer's accounts, and also all other accounts and claims in which the Grand Lodge may be interested, and report the existing condition of the Grand Treasury.

SEC. 5. After the Grand Master shall have presented his annual Message, he shall appoint a special committee of reference, who shall take the same in charge, and make a report, specifying the appropriate committees to whom the several subjects therein noticed shall be referred.

ARTICLE II.

SEC. 1. All Communications and Documents must first be submitted to the inspection of the Grand Master, before they can properly come before the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 2. Every Resolution or Motion submitted to the Grand Lodge, shall, if required, be reduced to writing and referred to appropriate committees.

SEC. 3. Every Member wishing to address the Grand Lodge, shall rise and respectfully address himself to the *Most Worshipful Grand Master*, confining his remarks to the subject under consideration, and avoiding personality and all gross expressions.

SEC. 4. No Member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission, nor shall he interrupt another when decorously addressing the Grand Lodge. All calls to order shall be addressed to the chair.

SEC. 5. No motion shall be debateable until seconded and stated from the chair, when it shall be considered in possession of the Grand Lodge and cannot be withdrawn, except by the mover, previous to decision or amendment. A question, when put by the Grand Master, cannot after be debated.

SEC. 6. No motion to close or call off is admissible, that responsibility resting alone with the Grand Master, who is obli-

gated to allow the occurrence of nothing tending to interrupt or defeat the regular course of any business legitimately coming before the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 7. On all other matters, the Rules which generally govern deliberative assemblies, shall be observed.

SEC. 8. No member, during the session of the Grand Lodge, shall leave the Hall, or absent himself from the City, without permission of the Grand Master.

SEC. 9. No vote of the Grand Lodge shall be reconsidered by a less number of members than were present at the passing of the same.

SEC. 10. No brother shall be admitted into the Grand Lodge but such as are members, excepting petitioners and witnesses; Provided, that the brethren properly entitled by their grade in Masonry, may, by permission from the chair, be admitted as visitors; in neither of which cases shall they be admitted to vote.

SEC. 11. The first business in course, shall be the reading of the proceedings of the previous session, or the consideration and disposal of all unfinished business appearing therein.

SEC. 12. All Committees chosen or appointed, shall report their proceedings in writing—the first named Brother on each to be Chairman; unless he waive his right to another.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. Dispensations for New Lodges may be granted upon petition to the Grand Master, or the Dep. Grand Master, of not less than seven Worthy Master Masons, said petitioners to be known and recommended by a Lodge nearest their residence, accompanied by a fee of five dollars.

SEC. 2. The Grand Secretary shall always keep on hand a sufficient number of Diplomas with Grand Lodge certificates attached, for the use of the Subordinate Lodges, for which they shall pay fifty cents each copy, one half whereof shall go into the Grand Treasury, the other to the Grand Secretary for affixing seal, &c.

SEC. 3. No monies shall be paid out of the Grand Treasury,

unless authorized by the Grand Lodge and approved by the Grand Master.

SEC. 4. The Grand Secretary, in addition to his other duties, shall receive and receipt for all monies due the Grand Lodge, handing the amount over each day to the Grand Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor; and as compensation for his services he shall receive a salary of one hundred and fifty dollars; in addition to which, he shall be entitled to one dollar for engrossing a Dispensation or Charter and affixing seal, and one dollar for every certificate or document requiring a seal. Diplomas and papers required by the Grand Master are excepted. The Grand Secretary shall employ an assistant during the session of the Grand Lodge and pay him out of his aforesaid salary.

SEC. 5. Appeals brought up to the Grand Lodge will not be considered, unless the same be in writing, accompanied with all necessary papers, proceedings and proofs, when consistent, to enable the formation of a correct decision. When the matter is thus properly presented, it shall be referred to a special committee. All grievances shall be disposed of in the same manner. In any extreme case, however, it will be competent for the Grand Lodge to deviate from the above rule.

SEC. 6. Whenever any property, funds, furniture, &c., shall become forfeited to the Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall have power, at his discretion, to sell, lease or rent the same, or to loan to a Lodge any part thereof until the ensuing session of the Grand Lodge; or he may restore such property on the revival of a Lodge.

SEC. 7. Representatives to the Grand Lodge must bear with them certificates of appointment, under the seal of the Lodge they represent, attested by the Secretary; and all credentials must be handed to the Grand Secretary, together with all fees or dues.

SEC. 8. Every dispensation granted must be returned to the Grand Lodge at its ensuing session, together with a copy of the By-Laws of the new Lodge, and attested transcript of its proceedings, a list of officers and members, and a fee of ten dollars, for which a charter shall be issued, if so directed by the Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. The price, chargeable by Subordinate Lodges, for the three Degrees of Masonry, shall not be less than twenty dollars.

Sec. 2. Any Mason so reckless of his duty as to lend his influence, or give a certificate or recommendation to enable an individual, in defiance of expressed disapprobation or known regulation of a Lodge, to thrust himself into their society, may be suspended or expelled by the injured Lodge or other competent tribunal, the proper usages in such cases to be observed.

Sec. 3. No chartered Lodge can proceed to work, until the Master be regularly installed, either by the Grand Master in person, or by some Past Master duly authorised.

Sec. 4. All regular Lodges under this jurisdiction, with not less than seven members, have the right to convene as free and accepted M^asons, receive petitions, confer the degrees of Entered Apprentices, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, admit members, and assess fees therefor; to choose officers annually, exact quarterage, establish a charity fund, frame and adopt By-Laws, and act upon all other matters of Masonic concernment not inconsistent with their charters, the laws of the Grand Lodge, or the ancient usages of the craft.

Sec. 5. Every Lodge shall hold at least one regular monthly meeting, which can only be suspended, and then temporarily, on great emergency.

Sec. 6. Every Lodge which shall cease to meet for twelve months, or neglect to make returns and forward dues to the Grand Lodge for two successive terms, shall forfeit its charter; and no such charter shall be restored except on application by the Master, Wardens or seven members, accompanied by satisfactory explanations, to be approved by the Grand Lodge, or by the Grand Master during recess.

Sec. 7. No Lodge can suspend its By-Laws, or allow a petition to be withdrawn, after the day of its presentation, without first obtaining a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Sec. 8. No business can be transacted at an extra meeting other than that for which it was called, nor can such meeting

receive petitions, ballot, or engage in any other business affecting the general interests of the craft. The presence of Grand officers warrant exceptions.

Sec. 9. The Master, only, has power to convene his Lodge; or, in his absence, the Wardens by seniority. All meetings, as a Lodge, otherwise convened, together with the proceedings therein, unless sustained by dispensation, shall be considered clandestine, and subject all so improperly concerned to the severest penalties.

Sec. 10. Every petition shall be submitted to a committee of inquiry and lie over at least one month, unless in cases of pressing emergency, which shall not be considered to exist unless the candidate is about to journey abroad; neither shall more than one degree be conferred on the same day, except as above provided, unless due proficiency be attained in each advancing step, to be manifested in open Lodge. An excess of five candidates shall not be received on the same day.

Sec. 11. On balloting for a candidate, one black ball shall reject without a question—except that a second ballot may be demanded to be satisfied of no mistake.

Sec. 12. No Lodge shall act upon the petition of an applicant for the degrees, whose residence is nearer some other Lodge, unless by written sanctions of such Lodge, or of the Grand Lodge of the State from which he hails.

Sec. 13. A petition, once rejected, shall not again be acted upon within the space of one year.

Sec. 14. No business shall be transacted in any other than a Master's Lodge, excepting only such as pertains especially to the work and lectures of the E. A. or F. C. degrees.

Sec. 15. Every Lodge has the power to arraign its members, or any other Mason within its jurisdiction, on a charge of immoral or un-Masonic conduct; and after due investigation, may proceed to pass such lawful sentence as the aggravation of the case shall warrant—provided that, in case of suspension or expulsion, a transcript of the whole proceedings be laid before the ensuing Grand Lodge, to be confirmed or reversed.

Sec. 16. Whenever charges are preferred against a brother,

he shall be notified or cited through the Post Office or otherwise, at least ten days before the day of trial, and be furnished with a copy, under the Secretary's hand, of the charges and specifications. Should he fail to attend, the trial may proceed ex-parte. Any evidence, allowable in a court, may be taken on honor; and every facility shall be allowed the accused for his defence. When the case is closed, the sense of the Lodge shall be taken through the ballot box. If guilty, the penalty shall be determined in like manner, requiring a vote of two-thirds present to suspend or expel—from which an appeal may be taken to the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 17. Every Lodge under this jurisdiction shall make regular annual returns to the Grand Lodge, containing a list of the officers and members; a list of those initiated, passed, raised and admitted; of deaths, withdrawals, suspensions, expulsions and rejections; and of all resident Masons not members, to be certified by the Secretary, under the seal of the Lodge. Each Lodge shall likewise transmit with its returns, such annual dues or fees, as the Grand Lodge may at any time assess.

Sec. 18. In conferring the degrees, the lectures appertaining thereto shall indispensably be delivered; and it shall be considered irregular, in the opening or closing of a Lodge, to waive any portion of the ceremonies.

Sec. 19. In case of the suspension or demise of any Lodge, the charter, furniture, jewels, funds and property shall be delivered to such person as may be authorized by the Grand Master to receive the same—the withholding or other disposal of such effects will subject the parties concerned to the severest penalties.

Sec. 20. None but Master Masons of good standing, against whom no other Lodge has claims, can be admitted to membership in any Lodge.

Sec. 21. In order to insure a uniformity of work and lectures in all the Lodges, they shall suffer no other system to be introduced, but such as may be taught or authorized by the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 22. The regalia worn in Lodge shall be such only as may be recognized therein—that worn on public occasions.

white aprons with suitable devices, trimmed with blue, and blue collars for the officers, trimmed with white, having appended thereto the appropriate jewels—in funeral processions, the clothing shall be white aprons and gloves, the officers wearing, in addition, their jewels.

Sec. 23. It is the duty of the Master of every Lodge, on the decease of a member, or sojourning brother, to ascertain if Masonic honors would be agreeable, and take measures accordingly.

Sec. 24. No Mason can be a member of more than one Lodge at one and the same time.

Sec. 25. Every Lodge shall appoint a committee of reference, to consist of at least three judicious persons, who shall patiently and impartially consider and pass upon all such matters of controversy or dispute, unfortunately arising at any time among the brothers, as may be submitted for their decision. Should either party be dissatisfied with the judgment, an appeal may be made to the Lodge.

Sec. 26. A Lodge cannot be opened unless the dispensation or charter be present—which are considered to be under the special charge of the Master.

Sec. 27. The decision of the Master of a Lodge cannot be reversed; neither can a Lodge try its Master—but any three members, after giving due notice, may, in case of a wilful neglect of duty on his part, or for gross un-Masonic conduct, prefer charges against him before the Grand Lodge, whose action shall be abided; or, the Grand Master, during recess, has power to suspend.

Sec. 28. A brother, whose expulsion may have been confirmed by the Grand Lodge, can only be restored by that body, or by the unanimous vote of the Lodge by which he was suspended. Restoration by the Grand Lodge does not extend to membership.

Sec. 29. The introduction or use of intoxicating drink is prohibited to every Lodge, regardless of the occasion.

Sec. 30. Every Lodge shall hold sacred all initiation fees for charitable or educational purposes, unless the necessity should present, requiring their use in providing suitable accommodations, or for providing essential fixtures.

Sec. 31. Every applicant for initiation must be free-born; and no individual, physically so deformed, as to disable him from honestly acquiring the means of subsistence, or who may be incapacitated to become an useful member, shall be initiated in any Lodge.

Sec. 32. The ceremonies may be arrested at any time previous to the conferring of either degree, should a member so insist, and show satisfactory cause therefor.

Sec. 33. None of the provisions in any of the above sections can be deviated from, except by dispensation from the Grand Master.

Sec. 34. Whenever a Lodge shall suspend or expel a brother, notice of the same shall be immediately transmitted to the other Lodges in the State, and to the Grand Secretary. The charges and proceedings in the case shall, indispensably, be sent up to the ensuing Grand Lodge for final action.

Sec. 35. No Lodge can, rightfully, suspend or expel a Mason for a disregard of any special regulations conditioned upon membership—such as non-payment of arrears, non-attendance, or transgressions of minor consideration, the severest penalty for which shall be dismembership. Disclosures to others than Masons, of transactions within a Lodge, of serious importance, will of course be considered as exceptions, and may be dealt with in severity commensurate with the magnitude of the offence.

Sec. 36. A becoming solemnity shall be observed during the introduction or advancement of a candidate, and no unsanctioned ceremony shall, under any consideration, be permitted.

Sec. 37. The utmost decorum should be observed in every Lodge; and no infringement of the established usages regarding respect and behavior should, under any pretence, be countenanced or allowed.

Sec. 38. No Lodge shall be removed, without the Master's knowledge. No motion shall be made for removal, in the Master's absence; and, if the motion be seconded, the Master shall order summonses to every individual member, specifying the business, and appoint a day for hearing and determining the affair, *at least ten days before it is to take place*; and the determination shall be made by the majority, provided the

Master be one of that majority. But if he be of the minority against removing, the Lodge shall not be removed, unless the majority consist of full two-thirds of the members present.— But, if the Master refuse to direct such summonses, either of the Wardens may do it; and if the Master neglect to attend on the day fixed, the Wardens may preside, in determining the affair, in the manner prescribed; but they shall not, in the Master's absence, enter upon any other cause than what is particularly mentioned in the summons. If the Lodge be thus regularly ordered to be removed, the Master or Warden shall send notice thereof to the Secretary of the Grand Lodge, for publishing the same at the next communication. No Lodge shall be deemed regularly removed, until the removal thereof be approved by the Grand Master, or his Deputy for the time being. No Lodge shall be regularly removed, unless the laws relating to removals be strictly complied with; and, that the same may be duly ascertained, it is necessary that the books of every Lodge, intended to be removed, be particularly inspected by the Grand Secretary, before any removal takes place.

Sec. 39. No alteration or amendment of these By-Laws shall be made unless by a vote of two-thirds of all the members present at any Grand Communication, when the same shall be proposed.

R U L E S

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SUBORDINATE LODGES IN MASONIC TRIALS.

1. The accusation must be made in writing over the signature of a Master Mason, and handed to the Secretary to be read in open Lodge, and spread upon the minutes, after which the accused shall be served with an attested copy of the charges and specifications, together with a notice through the Post Office or otherwise, at least ten days before the day of trial, to appear and answer, and should his place of residence be at a distance, or he require more time to prepare for defence, a reasonable time may be allowed. If the residence of the accused be unknown, or he fails to appear, or to show satisfactory cause for delay of proceedings, then and in that case the Lodge may proceed to examine the charges ex-parte.

2. The examination of the charges shall be had in a Master Mason's Lodge, especially notified and convened for that purpose, at which no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses, and the Lodge must be called off during the necessary presence of such persons, if they be not Master Masons.

3. The accused may select his own counsel, and the witnesses shall testify on their honor. Hearsay evidence must be excluded. If testimony be taken out of the Lodge, the accused, if he answer or appear, shall be duly notified of the time and place where such evidence will be taken, that he may have an opportunity of being present.

4. No irrelevant questions or testimony shall be allowed in the examination of witnesses. The Master may conduct the examination on behalf of the Lodge, or it may appoint a committee for that purpose, and the questions to, as well as the answers by the witnesses, must be carefully noted down, read, and if necessary, amended in their presence, and then spread upon the minutes.

5. When the examination is closed, the accused shall then be heard in defence, either in person or through his counsel, after which all who are not members of the Lodge shall retire, and if during the examination it shall have been called off, the Lodge must then be called on.

6. The question, guilty or not guilty, shall be put to the Lodge, upon each separate specification, which a majority of the members present shall determine by ballot, and if the accused be found guilty of any one or more of the charges or specifications, then the penalty shall be determined in like manner, taking the question upon the highest penalty, (expulsion) first, a vote of two-thirds of the members present being necessary to expel or suspend. The particular charges or specifications upon which the accused shall be found guilty, together with the sentence determined upon upon, must be spread upon the minutes.

7. A brother feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of a Subordinate Lodge, shall have the right of an appeal to the Grand Lodge, he having given due and timely notice to the Subordinate Lodge of his intention so to appeal from its decision, and the Secretary of said Lodge, if required, shall furnish him with a copy of all the proceedings touching his case.

When a Subordinate Lodge shall expel or suspend a brother, all the proceedings, embracing the charges, specifications, evidence on both sides, verdict upon each charge or specification, and the sentence, shall be sent up, under the seal of the Lodge, and attested by the Secretary, at the ensuing meeting of the Grand Lodge, for examination.

ADDRESS
TO THE GRAND MASTER AT THE INSTALLATION.

"I am desired, Most Worshipful, to install you into your high office as Grand Master of Masons. Do you promise, upon the honor of a Mason, that, in the office of Grand Master, you will, according to the best of your abilities, strictly comply with the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge, and other ancient Masonic usages ?

Give me leave to invest you with the badge of your office. This will silently admonish you always to do justice to the cause of Masonry ;—to consult, as the exalted rank you now hold demands of you, its real interests.

It will instruct you to infuse into the many Lodges, of which you are now the head, the true spirit of the order. It will direct you to make wise regulations for the good government of the Fraternity ; to give due commendation to the worthy members of it ; and to rebuke those who act contrary to its laws.

I next deliver to you the emblem of that power with which you are now invested. Always make use of it for the good of our benevolent institution.

To you are committed, also, those Sacred Writings in which are to be found the sublime part of our Ancient Mystery. In them are, likewise, inculcated the social and moral duties, without which no man can be a Mason. You will direct your Lodges to read, study, and obey them.

Receive the tools of Operative Masonry, which are, to each of us, the most expressive symbols. These will assist you, Most Worshipful, to reduce all matter into proper form ; to bring to due subjection irregular passions ; and to circumscribe them by harmony, order, and duty.

And lastly, I present you the Book of Constitutions, in which are contained the rules and orders made for the good govern-

ment of the Society ; and the charges which show its nature, its wisdom, and its utility. With this book, Most Worshipful, you will direct your Lodges to make themselves well acquainted—a work, in all its parts, worthy the attention of men, the most enlightened and judicious.

You are now, Most Worshipful, at the head of an Order which is calculated to unite men by true friendship, to extend benevolence, and to promote virtue. And give me leave to say, that the honor with which you are now invested is not unworthy of a man of the highest rank, or most distinguished abilities. Permit me, also, to remind you, that your faithful attention to the duties of your office, and acceptable discharge of them, will render you of great benefit to one of the most liberal institutions upon earth."

May you do honor to your exalted station, and long enjoy the highest respect and best wishes of all the Fraternity.

Which is respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM G. HILL,
H. W. MILLER,
JAMES T. MARRIOTT,

RESOLUTIONS
NOW IN FORCE, OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED 21st DECEMBER, A. L., 5809.

Resolved, That the Grand Master be requested to direct the Grand Secretary to lay before him all the communications received during the recess of the Grand Lodge, in due time, previous to the Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge, so that the Grand Master may lay before this Grand Lodge such an abstract thereof as he may deem proper for its consideration.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5835.

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge feel it a duty, which they owe to themselves, as well as the whole Masonic Fraternity, to declare, that while its individual members are left to the free, unmolested enjoyment of their sentiments, upon the various subjects connected with religion and politics, and the right to judge of men and their actions; they hereby, most solemnly declare, that Masonic Bodies have not the right to connect the Institution with the *sectarian* or *party* views of either; that any attempt thereat, is a gross innovation upon those principles, which among good and correct Masons, are universally acknowledged, and should be practiced upon.

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge, do at this time, as they have hitherto done, declare to the world, that the object of their association and motives for continuing therein are founded upon the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. They disclaim the right of Masons to inflict corporal punishments, and acknowledge no other right to enforce obedience from its members than reprimand; suspension and expulsion.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5837.

Resolved, That from and after this time, the price of a Dispensation, granted by this Lodge or by the Grand Master, be five dollars, and that the price of a Charter be ten dollars, and that the same be received by the Grand Secretary when he delivers over the Dispensation or Charter.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be entitled to retain out of the monies received for every Dispensation or Charter hereafter granted by this Grand Lodge or by the Grand Master, one dollar, as his fee for filling up and making out the form; and that he pay the balance over to the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge.

Resolved, That the price of a Diploma granted by this Grand Lodge, or by the officers thereof, shall be five dollars; and that the same shall accrue to, and be a part of the perquisites of the Grand Secretary.

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary have Dispensations, Charters and Diplomas printed from time to time, as they may be needed, and that the cost of the same be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5838.

Resolved, That from and after the first day of March next, the fees for the Entered Apprentice Degree shall be six dollars; for the Fellow Craft's, four dollars; and for the Master's degree, ten dollars; which shall be the fees to be paid to the Subordinate Lodges under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, exclusive of the Tyler's fees.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5839.

Resolved, That from and after the adjournment of this Grand Lodge, it shall be discretionary with the several Subordinate Lodges in this State, to establish any ratio of fees they may think proper for conferring the several degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason; provided the same shall not be less than the rate fixed by the Grand Lodge at its last Annual Communication.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5840.

Resolved, That it shall from this time forth, be the duty of the Grand Treasurer, at each Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, to file with the Grand Secretary a statement of the amount of monies and other funds of the Grand Lodge in his hands, which statement the Grand Secretary shall file among his papers, and preserve for the use of the Grand Lodge.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5844.

Resolved, That from and after this Communication, there shall annually, be appointed a Committee, consisting of two members, whose duty it shall be to examine the records of the Grand Lodge, and see that its proceedings have been faithfully recorded.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5846.

Resolved, That a belief in the authenticity of the Holy Scriptures, is essential to the faithful fulfilment of the duties required by the Order of Masonry in all christian countries, and that a denial of the same is in conflict with the principles of our Institution, calling for reprobation.

Resolved, That from and after this Grand Communication the Subordinate Lodges shall pay into the Grand Treasury as an annual stipend, the sum of fifteen dollars: Provided, that no Lodge be required to pay more than one dollar for each of its members.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5847.

Resolved, That hereafter, no individual shall act as proxy for more than one Lodge at the same time in the sessions of this Grand Lodge. (amended in 1848, and extended to three Lodges.)

Resolved, That hereafter, the Committee on Foreign Correspondence be required to make their report at the meeting of the Grand Lodge next succeeding their appointment.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5848.

Resolved, That from and after this Communication, the dues from Subordinate Lodges shall not under any circumstances be remitted.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5849.

Resolved, That the work of Brother L. L. Stephenson, be received as the work of the Craft in this State, and that the Subordinate Lodges conform thereto.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5850.

Resolved, That the 2nd Section of the 8th article of the Constitution be amended so as to read as follows: "In the adoption of this Constitution, and all amendments hereafter made, and in the election of Officers, and on all other matters in the Grand Lodge, (when demanded) the votes shall be taken according to the rights of the several Lodges; and the members of the Grand Lodge, that is to say, every Lodge present by its representation, shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more brethren; and every member of the Grand Lodge, otherwise entitled than by being a Representative of a particular Lodge, shall have one vote; provided, that this shall in no wise affect any rights of the Past Grand Officers. In cases of a tie, the Brother in the Chair shall have the casting vote.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5850.

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master be requested to deliver his Annual Address on Monday evening of every Annual Communication.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DECEMBER, A. L., 5851.

Resolved, That the M. W. Grand Master be requested to set apart one day at each Grand Communication, to lecture and exemplify the work; and that he call to his aid such brethren as he may think proper.

Resolved, That the salary of the Grand Secretary be one hundred and fifty dollars per annum, besides his usual perquisites; and that he be required to employ an assistant during the Session of the Grand Lodge, to be paid out of his salary. (Amended in 1854, and salary increased to two hundred dollars.)

Resolved, That upon the death of any Master Mason, in good standing, and who is a member of any Lodge under this jurisdiction, it shall be the duty of such Subordinate Lodge to furnish the widow or orphans of such deceased member, a certificate, under the seal of the Lodge, of his membership, standing and death, without any application or charge therefor.

Resolved, That any Mason of good standing as a citizen, whose Lodge has become dormant, upon satisfying any Lodge in his immediate neighborhood, may be entitled to become a member of such Lodge, by and with their consent, upon such terms as other Masons are admitted.